

University of Northern Iowa
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2-2020

UNI Grad Student News, v18n3, February 2020

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UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

Message From The Dean

Greetings from the Graduate College!

As we near the midpoint of the semester, I hope you are finding the flow and balance of your academic workload. More than likely, your days and weeks consist of routine and habits. Keeping the same schedule means doing the same thing becomes automatic and you may have to challenge yourself to seek out possibilities for exploration. Earlier this month I was at a session focused on the importance of networking during graduate school. One way to network is by attending professional development events and workshops. You will meet people across campus who may influence your

journey in unexpected ways. The Graduate College recently hosted a panel discussion on Preparing for a Diverse Workforce. Forty members of our graduate community (faculty, staff, and students) attended and heard from experts about how diversity in the workforce increases productivity, creativity, and positive work environments. Check out the story about the panel in the [Northern Iowan!](#)

The Graduate College is also preparing to celebrate YOU, our graduate students. Graduate Student Appreciation Week is coming. During the week of April 6-10, there will be lots of opportunities for you to network with others:

- Pizza Kick-Off Event (appreciation of our remarkable graduate students) - April 6th
- 13th Annual Graduate Student Symposium (network at an academic conference) - April 7th

We, the graduate community at University of Northern Iowa, would be honored to proudly showcase your research and creative works at the 13th Annual Graduate Student Symposium. [Register](#) and submit an abstract by March 13th for a poster presentation, oral presentation, or creative work. You will connect with other students who share your passion. You will network with faculty and staff from across campus who can expose you to new ideas and perspectives. The Graduate College is excited to receive your abstract and add you to our program of strong symposium presentations.

Graduate school is a time to truly explore the opportunities. While some opportunities will unfold, other opportunities you will have to seek out. Seek out these opportunities, including professional development workshops and the Graduate Student Symposium. At its best, graduate school should open doors for you that expand the possibilities in your journey.

Yours in exploration,
Jennifer J. Waldron



Student Profile: AJ Richard

What are the names of your undergraduate program and current graduate program?'

University of Northern Iowa, BA, Leisure, Youth and Human Services
University of Northern Iowa, MA candidate, Leisure, Youth and Human Services



When do you plan to graduate from UNI?
Summer 2020

What was your motivation to attend UNI for your graduate education?

I wanted to participate in a higher education program which challenged me to develop critical thinking skills. The faculty at UNI are outstanding. The course offerings and opportunities for interdisciplinary studies are also outstanding.

What are your research interests?

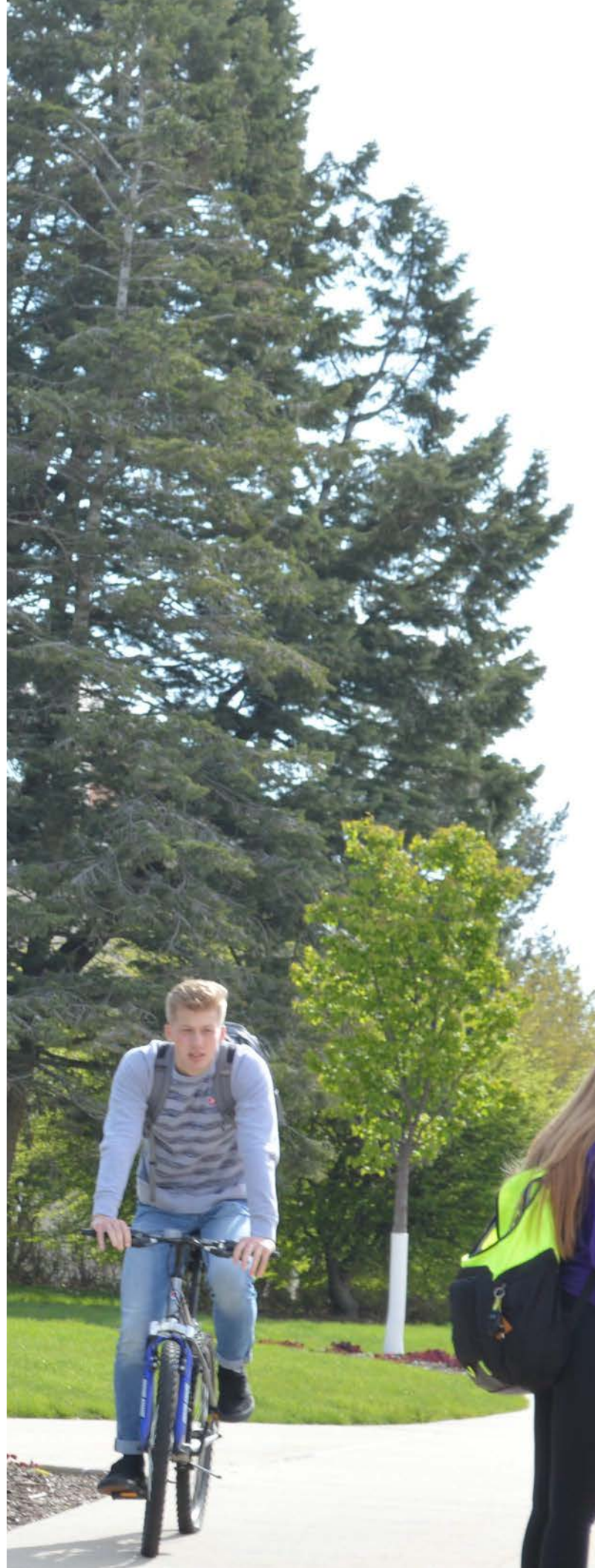
Leisure and social justice, gender inequity in sports, racial inequity, LGBTQI+ issues in leisure, and leisure as a site of resistance.

What are your career goals?

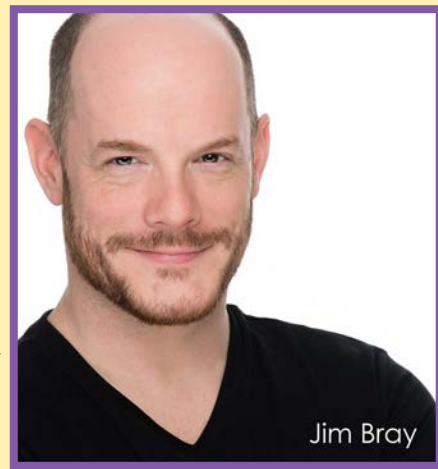
To earn a Ph.D. in leisure, recreation, sports so that I may continue to research, write, collaborate with other academics and share knowledge gained in order to bring about greater equality in leisure, recreation and sports.

Correction from the December Newsletter:

The December 2019 Newsletter profiled Katie O'Brien, a staff member within the Communication Sciences & Disorders Department. It should be noted her research was completed alongside Dr. Steven Onken, a faculty member from the Department of Social Work. Their research project was titled "Navigating Minority and Majority Cultures in Emerging Adulthood: A Pilot Study of Young Hearing Adults of Deaf Parents and Young Heterosexual Adults of Lesbian/Gay Parents" and published in 2019 in the journal, *Emerging Adulthood*.



Faculty Profile: Jim Bray



1. Describe your educational background.

I am a graduate of East Carolina University (ECU) in Greenville, North Carolina with a BFA in Musical Theatre. During my time at ECU, I was introduced to an acting approach created by Sanford Meisner. I fell in love with the accessibility of this approach to acting and the limitless use of imagination within the process. After graduation, I moved to NYC and during my sixteen years there, studied with many other leading instructors in my field while performing around the country and Europe. I completed my graduate work in Ohio at Kent State University, graduating with an MFA in Acting. In the same year, I also became certified to teach the Meisner approach to acting, studying under the tutelage of the world renowned Larry Silverberg.

2. Describe your employment experience.

My first major role was in the European touring production of *Grease*. I was with the show for 16 months. Following my return to the United States, I received my Actor's Equity card for a children's touring production that traveled throughout the United States. Actor's Equity is the Professional Union for Actors and Stage Managers. Since then, I have worked consistently at professional theatres as an actor or director. I was a grad assistant at Kent State and taught an Introduction to Theatre course as well as two acting courses while maintaining my own coursework and participating in the shows each semester. Here at UNI, I teach Acting, Acting Studio (Meisner), and Acting Styles which includes a movement based pedagogical approach to different genres and styles of theatre including Greek, Restoration Comedy, and Clowning.

3. What has impressed you at UNI?

My colleagues are impressive. I work with some of the most tireless, hardest working people in any department. We are passionate about the work we do and take the responsibility we have, accurately portraying life on the stage, very seriously. I work with scholars, groundbreakers, dreamers, and artists who make coming to work every day a joy. The people in the theatre department are always looking for ways to improve the culture of not only our own students' experiences on campus, but for the campus community as a whole. I am impressed with the dedication to quality and education that UNI strives for in order to bring community engagement onto campus. I am also very impressed with the CME and their hard work to continue to cultivate diversity and inclusion on campus. As we know in the theatre, representation matters!

4. What do you enjoy about teaching?

What I love the most about teaching is when students realize the importance of the training we do. Because of the nature of the hands on approach to Acting, Design and Production, Theatre for Youth, and Teaching, our students gain knowledge of who they are and what they are made of by taking risks, applying critical thinking, and recognizing without failures, success will not come. Another thing that really excites me about what I do, is that I continue to learn from my students. Because teaching acting is a systematic approach with many experiential variables, I am constantly learning about how to become an even better instructor and how to approach each student's differing needs and goals.

5. What are your research interests?

I have recently begun exploring Intimacy Directing for the stage. This is a new movement in the theatrical world and one that many are realizing is very important - especially in University Theatre. Intimacy Direction began in 2017 right around the same time as the #MeToo movement as an advocacy initiative for actors who need to portray a kiss, for example, or *any* moment of intimacy on stage. In a scene with stage combat, we would never give two actors a couple of swords and say, "Go for it!" It's the same idea with moments of intimacy. Actors should be choreographed and encouraged to collaborate with the Intimacy Director on what they are comfortable and/or uncomfortable with. The important thing to remember is that anything we do is in order to serve the story being told. I led a workshop and implemented this training for the entire cast in our production of *You Can't Take It With You*. My research also extends into movement training with approaches like the Michael Chekhov Technique and Viewpoints work, which I use to help actors build truthful characters physically and inwardly. While I continue to hone my skills in both, I was lucky enough to be one of 25 people chosen to participate in a seminar last year in NYC with Anne Bogart, the master instructor of Viewpoints. This summer I am hoping to continue some Clowning training with Chris Bayes, the head of Movement at Yale School of Drama, and I will be co-directing a production the TONY Award winning *Kinky Boots* in New Hampshire with original Broadway cast member Kevin Smith Kirkwood. Next spring, my colleague Gretta Berghammer and I will be co-directing a musical here at UNI incorporating a focus on making the production for all families, including those that have youth and young adults with exceptionalities. One of the public performances will include numerous production adjustments in order to better support individuals with autism and other developmental delays. We begin our research in NYC this May working on Disney Theatricals' autism-friendly performance of *Aladdin* on Broadway.

(This interview was edited by the Graduate College.)

Ashley Brickley - UNI Alumni Profile

Ashley Brickley earned her Master's degree in Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs in May of 2013 from UNI. Since graduating, Ashley worked for more than eight years in the field of disability services at UNI. She first began as a program associate and was promoted to coordinator where she worked with students to establish eligibility for accommodations and managed the operations of the Student Disability Services Office (now known as Student Accessibility Services), and provided supervision and support to the staff.

In January of 2016, she moved to Columbia, MO and began working at the University of Missouri (Mizzou). She began at Mizzou as the assistant director of the Disability Center and had the responsibility of working with graduate and professional students, as well as with student athlete accommodation plans. Additionally, she was responsible for the office's outreach program, including the annual Celebrate Ability Week. Ashley was recently promoted to the Director of the Disability Center at Mizzou. In her current position, she leads the office in strategic planning, managing the budget, and serves on numerous campus committees (e.g., Division of Student Affairs Leadership Team). Being involved in on-campus committees has allowed her to promote and implement campus policies and initiatives that advance accessibility on campus.



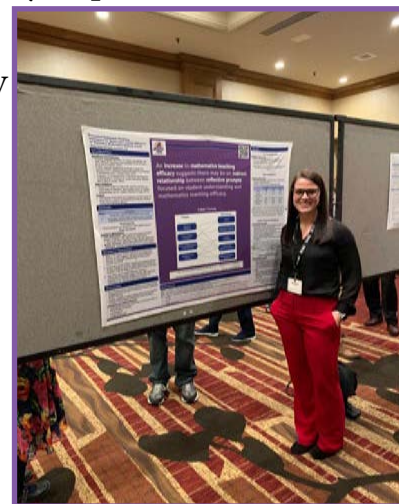
Ashley stated her motivation to attend UNI for her graduate studies, "Within my first few months of working at UNI, I knew that I had found my dream position and wanted to learn more about the field of student affairs. I was encouraged to apply to UNI's Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs program not only because of the convenience of taking classes at the institution I was working at, but because of the opportunity to learn from practitioners currently in the field who taught many of the courses in the program."

Ashley also expressed appreciation of the knowledge gained during her graduate studies at UNI. Before starting classes, she explained she didn't understand the impact student affairs practitioners had on student learning and development on college campuses. As she became immersed in the profession, she began to understand the responsibility she had in ensuring students had a well-rounded college experience. Ashley felt her studies at UNI helped her learn about the college operations. This includes things like the budget and finance to administration, organization, and governance. According to Ashley, what she learned in the program gave her the confidence and knowledge she needed in order to become a leader in her field.

Ashley is currently working through her first year of a part-time Ph.D. program in Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis at Mizzou.

Student Accolades: Brooke Krejci

Brooke Krejci, an Ed.D. Curriculum & Instruction student, had the opportunity to present at two conferences in Fall 2019. Her pilot study research entitled, "Prompted Reflective Thinking and Implications for Teacher Self-Efficacy in a Secondary Mathematics Course", was presented in November as a poster presentation at the Psychology of Mathematics Educators - North American Chapter Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. This research investigates possible ways to enhance preservice teachers' mathematics teaching efficacy through an intervention. Her article, "Addressing Common Misconceptions with Informal Arguments" was presented as an activity for practitioners in October 2019 at the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.



The Graduate College Welcomes: Jason Cox!

Jason Cox was hired in the Graduate College in January 2020 in the newly created position of Graduate Admissions Coordinator. In this role, he serves as a liaison between the Graduate College, the Office of Admissions, and the various graduate programs offered at UNI. A Texas native originally from the Dallas area, Jason completed his Bachelor of Arts in English at Texas A&M University. After a lengthy stint as a senior legal support in the trial court division of the Travis County District Attorney's Office in Austin, TX, he decided to return to academia and pursue his goal of obtaining a graduate degree. Jason made the big move from Texas to Michigan in 2011 and earned his Master's in Urban and Regional Planning degree from the School of Planning, Design, and Construction at Michigan State University (MSU) in 2014. Upon graduation, he worked as an outreach specialist with the Land Policy Institute at MSU where he helped with a wide array of grant-funded research projects that involved community engagement and neighborhood visioning sessions, spatial analysis of public spaces in downtowns and main streets, economic impact studies of distressed housing markets, creating online local food directories with the USDA, and updating recreation geodata at US Army Corps' parks and campgrounds. Jason came to UNI with his wife, Dr. Alison Cox, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminology. They have enjoyed getting settled in the Cedar Valley and appreciate the warm welcome they've received from the UNI community. Outside of work, Jason enjoys spending time with his dog, Rosie, reading a variety of books and graphic novels, drawing in his sketchbook, and playing the piano. He looks forward to exploring more of the state this summer and seeing the small towns, state parks, and other off-the-beaten-path places that Iowa has to offer.



The Graduate College Welcomes: Diego Saavedra!

Diego Saavedra recently filled a new part time position at the Graduate College which is oriented towards supporting, allocating, optimizing, and generally managing the Graduate Assistantships and Tuition Scholarships across UNI. Diego earned his Bachelor's degree in Civil Industrial Engineering from the Universidad de Tarapaca in Chile. During his undergraduate studies, he worked as a tutor, teaching assistant, independent consultant, and was a member of the student government. In December 2019, he graduated from UNI with a Master's in Technology Management.

Diego has been employed with a variety of companies and projects. He served as an Assistant Engineer at the Project-Execution and Innovation Center at Universidad de Tarapaca. In this role, he managed rural and collaborative projects with community members. He felt this position allowed him to engage with the community and entrepreneurial ecosystem through teaching classes at the university and training business owners in a variety of skills. Diego also worked as an Operation Sub Manager with Lombardi Enterprises, an agricultural company which primarily produces olives, tomatoes, peppers, and tropical fruits. He expressed this key role encouraged him to apply engineering knowledge and process optimization tools to improve production processes. He engaged with more than 40 employees which allowed them to achieve meaningful results. After serving in this role, he realized the passion he had for leadership, management, engineering, and technology.

For fun and leisure activities, Diego loves to practice sports, most especially soccer, handball, and running. He enjoys cooking and learning new recipes when the opportunity is present. True to his field of study, he also likes to listen to podcasts or watch TV series related to business, industry, technology, and environmental sustainability.



Research Resources

Registration Now Open!

THE 13th ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

11 AM - 4PM

MAUCKER UNION

Registration is open January 13th-March 13th

Visit the Graduate College Website and click on Graduate Student Symposium to register.

Questions? Email gradlife@uni.edu



Spring Thesis Preview Dates

March 13th: Preview must be completed by this date in order to be eligible for spring graduation

April 1st: Application for spring graduation due through Student Center

April 3rd: Submission due in to the Graduate College by 4:30 p.m. in order to eligible for spring graduation

May 8th: Final deadline for application for spring graduation

May 8-9th: Commencement (see [Registrar's Website](#) for deadline and further information)

GRADUATE STUDENT WRITING SUPPORT THE LEARNING CENTER, MAIN FLOOR ROD LIBRARY

- ◇ Map out strategies for the writing process
- ◇ Identify resources and liaison librarians
- ◇ Review written work for grammatical clarity
- ◇ Organize your paper, literature review, or other written work

Grace Mertz, GA for Graduate Writing, will be available for drop-in hours:

Mondays: 12 – 12:45 PM

Thursdays: 12 – 12:45 PM

Appointments at other times are also available. Check for open appointment slots on the Graduate Writing Appointment Calendar at grad.uni.edu/current-students under //RESEARCH, or email mertzg@uni.edu with questions.



Take Care Tip

Feeling SAD? Seasonal Affective Disorder is a common experience for many in the late fall and winter months of the year. There are strategies recommended by doctors to incorporate into your routine if SAD is impacting your daily life. For those who need a light pick-me-up, be sure to visit the UNI Biology Botanical Center Teaching Collection on campus located directly east of McCollum Science Hall. Visitors are welcome Monday through Friday 8:00-4:00 p.m. The Botanical Center is home to exotic plants from the desert, tropic, and aquatic ecosystems. You may also spot critters within the foliage. Enjoy the warmth and light in a room filled with color while the winter forges on.

Gene Project: Love the Genes You're In

On February 25-February 27th, the Student Health Advisory Committee hosted "The Gene Project" in Maucker Union. "The Gene Project" is a display of different sized jeans to bring awareness to body image and self-acceptance. "The Gene Project" encourages people to accept and celebrate the body they have by getting rid of jeans that no longer fit. The goal of the project is to love the size you are and embrace it!

Are you looking to give back to the community? The Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley (VCCV) serves as a coordination center and can connect you with over 150 organizations in Black Hawk County. Additionally, the VCCV has partnered with UNI in an effort to promote volunteerism. The VCCV satellite office at UNI is located in the northwest corner of Maucker Union next to Guest Services. Staff is available Monday and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To explore this opportunity and sign-up to volunteer, visit www.vccv.org. Email information@vccv.com or call 319-272-2087 for more information.

Out of Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk

The annual Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk will take place on April 4th at Gallagher-Bludorn Performing Arts Center (GBPAC). This event is focused on bringing mental health to the forefront of our conversations and building a community which is open and aware of the impact of mental health and suicide on our society's wellbeing. Out of the Darkness will begin at 12:00 pm where attendees of the event will be able to participate in resource interactive informative events, be connected with community tables, tie-dye shirts, receive free chair massages and so much more! At 2:30 pm everyone in attendance will make their way into the Great Hall of GBPAC to hear 2018 Miss Iowa Mikhayla Hughes-Shaw speak on how we can raise awareness on the impact of suicide, advocate for smarter mental health policies, and become more involved and active as we support mental health treatment. After the presentation portion of the event, the attendees will walk together across the campus to show their support for all those who have been impacted by mental health and suicide issues.

Panther Pantry

In the Spring of 2018, a food and necessities pantry, the Panther Pantry, opened in the lower level of Maucker Union to the right of the Computer Lab. The Pantry has food and necessity items available for students to access Monday-Thursday from 12:00-4:30 pm and Friday from 12:00-3:00 pm. All currently enrolled UNI students are able to use the Pantry. The intent is that any student that cannot financially afford food, either because their paycheck hasn't come in or because they don't know where their next meal is coming from, utilizes the Pantry. In addition to the services already provided, the Pantry now has an Amazon wishlist of necessity and food items that it needs on a regular basis. Items include food items that are in high demand that don't get donated or that can't be purchased at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank on a regular basis. If you wish to volunteer you can sign up [here](#). All volunteers must go through a brief training on confidentiality prior to their shift. If you would like more information or have questions regarding the Pantry, please contact us at pantherpantry@uni.edu.



Counseling Center

The UNI Counseling Center promotes the personal development and psychological well-being of all students and encourages a college environment that is conducive to growth and learning. Enrolled students paying the mandatory fees are eligible for a free initial assessment and clinical recommendations. The Counseling Center provides a variety of services to UNI students including group counseling, individual counseling, and couples counseling.

Call the Counseling Center at (319)-273-2676 to schedule an Initial Assessment appointment with a counselor.

Counseling Center Hours:
Monday-Friday: 8:00-4:30 pm

Outside of regular office hours, call the Counseling Center at 319-273-2676 and press 2 to speak to a crisis counselor.

For more information, visit the Counseling Center [website](#).

The Graduate College Presents...

GRADUATE STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK KICK-OFF EVENT

Monday, April 6, 2020
Maucker Union Ballroom
11:00 am-1:00 pm

JOIN US!

- Pizza
- Pop
- Cookies
- Fellowship and Conversation
- Gratitude Rocks
- Motivational Notes

STUDENT
HEALTH
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE



UNI GRAD CHAT

- CONNECT WITH YOUR FELLOW GRADUATE STUDENTS
 - STAY UP TO DATE WITH UPCOMING EVENTS
- WHAT CAN YOU POST ABOUT?**

- INTERESTING READINGS
- POSITIVE NEWS ARTICLES
- CAMPUS EVENTS
- CEDAR VALLEY EVENTS
- FAVORITE BOOKS, MUSIC, & PODCASTS
- HOT SPOTS TO HAVE FUN IN THE CEDAR VALLEY

REQUEST TO JOIN UNI
GRAD CHAT ON
FACEBOOK



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/unigradchat/>

University of
Northern Iowa
Graduate College

Are you ready for
Spring?

There's an old saying that says seeing a robin is the first sign of spring. While this isn't necessarily true, it is fun to look for robins in anticipation of warmer weather! Can you spot the red-breasted robin in the picture to the left?



Explore a new topic each month in GRAD SOURCE

The Grad College's monthly student e-blast!

Video Clips

Deadlines

Upcoming Events

Professional Development

Writing & Research Tips

Graduate Student Handbook

Be sure to check out the **Handbook** for information about on-campus and off-campus resources!



EXPLORE AND POST YOUR WORK IN

UNI ScholarWorks

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How do authors benefit?

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Visit <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/> to view the UNI collections.



Doctoral & Masters Net



Your digital professional development services are powered by DoctoralNet and MastersNet — providing services across 10 topics tags as shown above.

Visit <https://uni.pd.education> today to get started

What is the UNI Grad Student News?

UNI Grad Student News is a quarterly newsletter featuring news and updates concerning graduate education at the University of Northern Iowa. Each issue features profile stories on graduate students, faculty, staff, and notable alumni. UNI Grad Student News is unique in that it publishes news submitted directly from graduate students and faculty.

How and What Can I Submit as News?

Complete the Submission Form at <https://grad.uni.edu/online-submission-form>. Submissions can include information about recent conferences you have attended, academic accomplishments, or upcoming departmental events.

We Welcome Your News!

Submission Deadlines for Spring 2020 Issues:

April 11, 2020 for May Issue

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Who Receives the Newsletter?

All graduate students, faculty, and staff receive the newsletter via email.

You can always view previous and current issues of *UNI Grad Student News* at <https://www.grad.uni.edu/uni-grad-student-news>.

GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

With any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Graduate College staff listed below.

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